be sent to Alleppey when the one hundred recruits now under training are distributed to the various stations. The construction of Police lines at Alleppey will also receive consideration.]

148. Needs of the Devicolam taluk.

MR. E. RAMAN TAMPI (*Devicolam taluk*) first spoke about the necessity for the Government taking immediate steps for the introduction of electric lights and telephone lines in the Devicolam town. The same subject was represented in the Assembly in 1102. Electric lighting had already been introduced in the Trivandrum town and the same was likely to be introduced in the near future, in the towns of Nagercoil, Alleppey and Kottayam. Compared to the enormous capital investments involved for electrifying the towns in the plains, only a very small amount was required for the electrification of the Devicolam town. The K. D. H. P. Co. Ltd., had a hydraulic power station at Pallivasal and the power generated there could be conveniently utilised for lighting the Devicolam town. The transmission lines conveying the power, for lighting the Company's buildings, etc., passed along the border of the town. The Munnar town, which was only five miles away from the Devicolam town, had electric lights, put up and maintained by the Company. If the Government were to open negotiations with the K. D. H. P. Co., they would be prepared to supply power for the purpose of electrifying Devicolam town. If the Government sanction electric lighting of the town, sanction should also be accorded for the introduction of telephone lines simultaneously. The whole area comprised in the K. D. H. *Pakuthi*, belonging to the Company had been connected with telephone lines. The telephone connection would be of much use in times of emergency, such as when plague broke out, besides being useful for commercial purposes.

The member next spoke about the desirability of commencing the civil court vacation in Devicolam from 1st Mithunam every year. The worst season in the High Ranges was the period between Edavom and Karkadagom when there was very heavy monsoon. Owing to incessant rain, the parties and witnesses connected with the suits filed in the Devicolam Munsiff's Court failed to be regular in their attendance and hence the work in the court suffered much. Unlike in the case of other taluks, the vacation for the schools in the High Ranges commenced only from the middle of Edavom. The same principle should be adopted in giving vacation for the Devicolam Munsiff's Court also. Further, most of the processes connected with the suits filed in the local Munsiff's Court had to be executed through the British Indian Civil Courts, as the parties and witnesses mostly resided in the neighbouring British Indian villages. The vacation for the British Indian Civil Courts began in the month of May. Hence, if the vacation in the Devicolam Munsiff's Court was also given during the period, the delay caused in executing processes through the British Indian courts could be avoided. As a special case, the vacation for the Devicolam Munsiff's Court should be ordered to be given after the month of Edavom.

The member next urged that the water cess levied in Anjanad should be abolished forthwith. The ryots of Anjanad were very poor and the water cess imposed on them for irrigating their paddy fields by the Talliar Right Bank Project was a heavy burden to them. The cess was levied without any calculation of the capital invested and the area irrigated by the Project. The whole of the capital invested on the Project and much more had already been realised by the Government. There was therefore no justification for levying the cess any further. The whole water cess should be abolished.

The people of Anjanad were illiterate and ignorant and they suffered very great hardships at the hands of the *Proverthicars* who troubled them in all imaginable ways. In order to remedy the evil, an officer, with higher status and better qualification should be stationed at the place. A Revenue Inspector or Supervisor should be appointed for the whole Anjanad villages, with his headquarters at a central place.

There was no permanent Sanitary staff in Devicolam, except a solitary Vaccinator. The villages of Marayoor, Natchivayal, etc., were always subjected to malaria of a very virulent type. Epidemics such as cholera and small-pox were common every year, all on account of want of proper sanitation. The people were too ignorant to understand the principles of hygiene and sanitation and if a Sanitary staff was stationed there, they would be able to enforce the rules and educate them about such matters. Further, there was constant communication between the villages in the taluk, and the British Indian villages, infected with plague. Persistent preventive measures had to be taken to check the spread of the disease to the Travancore villages. A permanent Sanitary staff should be appointed and placed under the control of the present Devicolam Commissioner, due to whose personal interest and viglant work, the High Ranges had been immune from this dangerous disease.

Immediate investigation should be conducted regarding the opening of the proposed roads from (i) Chittuvurrai to Vattavada, (ii) from Chunduvurrai to Kanthalloor and (iii) from Periakanal to Pallivasal. These roads would open up the country and create a great demand for the unregistered lands in these parts which were lying idle for want of communication.

The member lastly urged the immediate necessity of constructing the Neriamangalam bridge. This bridge was essential to derive the full benefits from the Neriamangalam—Pallivasal road, throughout the year. The works connected with the bridge should be begun forthwith.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Raman Tampi, your first point was about the introduction of electric lighting and the installation of a telephone system in the Devicolam town. I may tell you that arrangements have been made with the K. D. H. P. Co., for the installation of a telephone system in the town. The question of electric lighting will be considered,

MEMBER: Who is to incur the cost of installing the telephone, the Company or the Government?

DEWAN: Of course, the cost will now be defrayed by the Company, but a return will have to be given to them year after year for some time, from the profits. Anyhow that is a matter of detail.

Your second point was that the period of the vacation for the courts at Devicolam must be made to correspond with the vacation that is now allowed to the educational institutions there. That is a matter in which the High Court will have to be consulted.

The point that you tried to stress in your next suggestion was that Government have already realised the whole of the amount that they have invested in the irrigation works in the Anjanad villages and that therefore there is no justification for further realisation of this cess. That question will be investigated.

Then you want the *Proverthicars* to be sent away because you say there are too many of them there. But you must remember that your taluk is one where communication is not easy and it will therefore be difficult for one officer to go from one place to another and to do the work that is now done by three or four *Proverthicars*. Government cannot therefore at the present moment think of substituting one Supervisor for the *Proverthicars*.

It seems to me that it would not be true to say that there are not proper authorities to attend to sanitation there. Most of the estates have their own medical and sanitary arrangements and they would be in a better position to look after the sanitation of the place than a Government officer, because a large part of the taluk is covered by estates. As regards the recrudescence of plague, Government have got certain plague stations on the frontier which are always well and efficiently manned and they are being properly maintained and worked by the Commissioner, Devicolam, and other authorities. Government will always be careful to take the necessary steps to see that plague is got rid of.

I shall consider your representation with regard to the specific roads that you mentioned.

You referred to the urgent necessity for the construction of a bridge in the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road. The road is to be opened very shortly; and after that is done, Government will consider the question of the construction of the bridge.

149. Needs of the Pulayas.

MR. AIYYAN KALI (*Nominated*) speaing in Malayalam, first thanked the Government for the several concessions granted to the Pulayas in the matter of education and in regard to entertainment in public service. He said that, in spite of the concessions allowed in the matter of school fees and examination fees, the community had not advanced much in education. The above concessions should therefore be continued for a further period of ten years,